

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 SINGAP 02044 091134Z

47

ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 AF-10 EUR-25 IO-14 ISO-00 OMB-01 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04

RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 DRC-01 /172 W

----- 089308

R 090930Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 541

INFO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

AMEMBASSY DACCA

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY RANGOON

AMEMBASSY TANANARIVE

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

USMISSION GENEVA

USUN NEW YORK 192

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

CINCPAC

S E C R E T SINGAPORE 2044

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 SINGAP 02044 091134Z

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MARR, PARM, US, SN

SUBJECT: INDIAN OCEAN -- THE VIEW FROM SINGAPORE

REF: NEW DELHI 5616

1. SINGAPORE LEADERS, PARTICULARLY PRIME MINISTER LEE, ARE CONCERNED OVER THE GROWTH OF SOVIET NAVAL PRESENCE AND INFLUENCE IN THE INDIAN OCEAN AND ARE IN FAVOR OF THE US MAINTAINING A NAVAL PRESENCE THERE TO BALANCE OFF THE RUSSIANS AND OF OUR EXPANDING THE MILITARY FACILITIES OF DIEGO GARCIA (SEE SINGAPORE 707 NOTAL). HENCE, IT IS NOT NECESSARY FOR US TO ARTICULATE, FOR THEM, THE REASONS BEHIND OUR RECENT MOVES IN THE INDIAN OCEAN. THE FACTS SPEAK FOR THEMSELVES.

2. DESPITE ITS GENERALLY PRO-WESTERN BIAS GOS STILL PROFESSES NONALIGNMENT AND VOTED IN THE UN FOR THE IOZP. FURTHERMORE, THE GOS IS WELL AWARE THAT MALAYSIA AND INDONESIA AS WELL AS MANY OTHER NON-ALIGNED GOVERNMENTS ARE PUBLICLY CRITICAL OF US INDIAN OCEAN PLANS. THEREFORE, GOS IS NOT ANXIOUS TO BE FORCED INTO A PUBLIC POSITION WHICH WOULD PUT SINGAPORE AT ODDS WITH MANY NONALIGNED GOVERNMENTS AND ESPECIALLY WITH ITS NEAREST NEIGHBORS. (IT IS NOTEWORTHY THAT WHEN QUESTIONED BY PRESS AT CURRENT ASEAN MEETING IN JAKARTA, FOREIGN MINISTER RAJARATNAM ASSERTED THAT GOS POSITION CALLING FOR BALANCE OF NAVIES IN INDIAN OCEAN DID NOT CONFLICT WITH MALAYSIAN OR INDONESIAN POSITIONS.) IN VIEW OF THESE FACTORS THE GOS IDEALLY WOULD PREFER THE US TO MAINTAIN A NAVAL PRESENCE IN THE INDIAN OCEAN AND IMPLEMENT PLANS FOR DIEGO GARCIA WITH AS LITTLE PUBLIC DISCUSSION AS POSSIBLE. THIS OF COURSE MAY NOT BE POSSIBLE GIVEN OUR INTERESTS IN SOME OF THE OTHER LITTORAL STATES WHICH HAVE EXPRESSED STRONG CONCERN OVER US INDIAN OCEAN POLICY.

3. I AGREE WITH RECOMMENDATION PARA 10 REFTEL THAT WE
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 SINGAP 02044 091134Z

SHOULD DEVELOP A CONSISTENT LONG RANGE RATIONALE ON THE INDIAN OCEAN AND DIEGO GARCIA WHICH ALL AGENCIES ACCEPT AND FOLLOW. THIS WOULD PROVIDE FIRM UNDERPINNING FOR OUR REPRESENTATIONS HERE AS ELSEWHERE. HOWEVER, A MAJOR US STATEMENT ALONG LINES PROPOSED PARA 13 A REFTEL IS NOT NEEDED TO MAKE US POLICY MORE ACCEPTABLE TO SINGAPORE ALTHOUGH REFTEL MAKES A PERSUASIVE CASE WHY SUCH A STATEMENT WOULD BE HELPFUL TO

OUR INTERESTS IN LITTORAL STATES. IF SUCH A STATEMENT WOULD ASSUAGE CONCERNS OF INDONESIA AND MALAYSIA AND BE USEFUL IN AFFECTING ATTITUDES OF OTHER NONALIGNED GOVERNMENTS, GOS WOULD PROBABLY PERCEIVE ITS UTILITY PROVIDED (A) IT DID NOT PRECIPITATE A MAJOR INTERNATIONAL DEBATE IN WHICH GOS MIGHT HAVE TO TAKE A STAND, OR (B) IT COULD NOT BE INTERPRETED AS A SIGN THAT THE US WAS SOMEHOW BACKING DOWN IN RESPONSE TO SOVIET AND NONALIGNED PRESSURE. ON BALANCE, GOS WOULD PROBABLY PREFER WE MAKE NO STATEMENT. HOWEVER, IF DEPARTMENT DECIDED SUCH A STATEMENT WERE NECESSARY, IT WOULD CAUSE NO SERIOUS PROBLEMS HERE AND MIGHT EVEN BE WELCOMED.

4. FROM THIS VANTAGE POINT IT WOULD SEEM QUESTIONABLE WHETHER WE HAVE MUCH TO GAIN BY ENGAGING IN ACTIVE PARTICIPATION IN INTERNATIONAL DISCUSSION AND CONSULTATIONS ON INDIAN OCEAN ISSUES AS PROPOSED PARAS 13 (B) AND (C) REFTEL. I REALIZE THERE ARE DRAWBACKS TO STANDING ALOOF FROM THIS PROCESS, AND THAT WE MAY WELL BECOME A MAJOR TARGET OF VARIOUS RESOLUTIONS AT THE UN AND ELSEWHERE. HOWEVER, UNLESS THERE IS A FAIRLY GOOD PROSPECT THAT ACTIVE US PARTICIPATION IN INTERNATIONAL DISCUSSIONS ON THE INDIAN OCEAN WOULD OBTAIN SIGNIFICANT SUPPORT FOR OUR POSITION AMONG THE "MENAGERIA" OF LITTORAL STATES, WE COULD STILL FIND OURSELVES ON THE LOSING END OF RESOLUTIONS AND AT THE SAME TIME RISK SOME LOSS IN OUR PRESENT FLEXIBILITY OF ACTION IN THE COURSE OF DEVELOPING SUPPORT FOR OUR POSITION. THEREFORE, I THINK WE SHOULD TAKE A LONG HARD LOOK AT EXACTLY WHAT WE EXPECT TO ACHIEVE BY INSERTING OURSELVES INTO THIS CONSULTATIVE PROCESS BEFORE PLUNGING IN.

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 04 SINGAP 02044 091134Z

CRONK

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, MILITARY POLICIES, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, PUBLIC ATTITUDES, NAVAL SHIPS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 09 MAY 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974SINGAP02044
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740113-0041
From: SINGAPORE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740561/aaaaccu.tel
Line Count: 155
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: NEW DELHI 5616
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03 APR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <03 APR 2002 by cunninfx>; APPROVED <11 JUN 2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: INDIAN OCEAN -- THE VIEW FROM SINGAPORE
TAGS: PFOR, MARR, PARM, US, SN, UR
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005